



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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Veterans Cemetery Caretaker Latest Veteran to Receive War-Delayed High School Diploma

(ELIZABETHTOWN, KY Oct. 22, 2008) Thirty-nine years ago, Doyle Steven DeRoush left school to join the Army. He served for two years and seven months, but returned home without a diploma from his old high school.

DeRoush recently started work as a caretaker at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central in Radcliff. When staff of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) realized that DeRoush qualified for a war-delayed high school diploma under state law, they called the Hardin County Board of Education.

On Tuesday night, members of the Hardin County Board of Education stood and applauded as DeRoush received his Elizabethtown Public Schools High School Diploma from Dr. Bill Clagett, the Board's veteran representative.

Col. Eric Schwartz, Fort Knox Garrison Commander, presented DeRoush with the Commander's Coin of Excellence.

In 2002, the Kentucky General Assembly approved the Veterans High School Diploma program authorizing high school diplomas for Kentucky veterans who left school before graduating in order to serve in the military during World War II. In 2004, Kentucky extended the program to Korean War veterans and in 2005 to Vietnam War veterans.

Since 2002, KDVA has verified military service allowing schools to issue diplomas to 1,060 such veterans.

For more information about the program, including application forms, go to <http://veterans.ky.gov/programs/diploma.htm>

Two photographs are attached. DeRoush 1 – Board members applaud as Steve DeRoush receives his long-delayed diploma from Dr. Bill Clagett. DeRoush 2 – Col Eric Schwartz presented his Commander's Coin of Excellence to Steve DeRoush.